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an inner fin provided in each heat transfer tube, said inner fin comprising a plurality of waving strips, each having a repeated structure comprising a first flat portion, a first inclined plate portion extending from said first flat portion at a first inclination angle, a second flat portion extending from said first inclined plate portion in parallel to said first flat portion, and a second inclined plate portion extending from said second flat portion at a second inclination angle, arranged in this order, wherein said waving strips are arranged adjacent to each other in a transverse direction to each waving strip and are offset from each other in a longitudinal direction, such that said adjacent waving strips are connected at connecting portions between said first flat portions of said adjacent waving strips and between said second flat portions of said adjacent waving strips, and a length (T) an outer surface and an inner surface of each connecting portion in said longitudinal direction of each waving strip is less than or equal to about a thickness (t) of a plate forming each waving strip or less.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3 to better describe the claimed invention. Applicant is including a marked-up copy of amendments to the claims with this responsive amendment. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

REMARKS

1. Rejections

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly clearly anticipated by each of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP-A-7-280484 ("JP-484") and U.S. Patent No. 2,360,123 to Gerstung et al. ("Gerstung"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

2. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-6 stand rejected as allegedly clearly anticipated by each of JP-484 and Gerstung. "A claim is anticipated if and only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference," and "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the claim." MPEP 2131.